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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/684,063	10/06/2000	Tsunetake Noma	202708US6	2851
22850	7590	02/05/2007		EXAMINER
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.				LEE, PHILIP C
1940 DUKE STREET				
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2152	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/05/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/684,063	NOMA, TSUNETAKE
	Examiner Philip C. Lee	Art Unit 2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

1. This action is responsive to the amendment and remarks filed on December 18, 2006.
2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/17/2006 has been entered.
3. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.
4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. code not included in this office action can be found in a prior office action.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.
6. Claims 1, 6, 12, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because “An apparatus” that does not include any functional structure of an apparatus is considered as program per se, which is not one of the categories of statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

7. Claims 1-5, 8 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agraharam et al, U.S. Patent 5,956,482 (hereinafter Agraharam) in view of Porter et al, U.S. Patent 6,675,299 (hereinafter Porter).

8. Agraharam and Porter were cited in the last office action.

9. As per claim 1, 5 and 12, Agraharam taught the invention substantially as claimed for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses, the service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server on a network, comprising:

storage means for storing a group (e.g. participation list predetermined code) (page 3, paragraphs 36 and 37), and content (page 1, paragraph 15);
reception means for receiving a group request to include a corresponding one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of the plurality of groups (e.g. participation list) (page 3, paragraphs 27 and 36), the group request selecting a respective one of the plurality of groups (page 3, paragraph 29), the group request transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses belonging to one of the plurality of groups (page 3, paragraphs 27 and 36), and for receiving a content request (e.g. specifies the multimedia document) transmitting from any of the information processing apparatuses belonging to one of the plurality of groups, the content request including a selection of available content (page 3, paragraphs 28 and 34);

acquisition means for acquiring data coordinated with the content request (page 1, paragraph 16) and communication means for transmitting the data acquired by said acquisition means simultaneously (page 1, paragraph 16) to all of those of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and belonging to a same group (e.g. session audience) (page 2, paragraph 19; page 3, paragraphs 27 and 29).

10. Agraham did not specifically teach storing a plurality of groups and a list of available content. Porter taught a shared file management system for storing a plurality of groups (col. 8, lines 21-31; col. 10, lines 33-48) and a list of available content (col. 11, lines 4-9, 26-32; col. 11, line 66-col. 12, line 6). Furthermore, Porter taught a selection from a list of available content (col. 9, line 62-col. 10, line 9).

11. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Agraham and Porter because Porter's teaching of storing a plurality groups would increase the utilization of the shared server to provide services to multiple groups.

(Note that Agraham's system must store a plurality of groups in order to provide services to multiple session audiences.)

12. As per claim 2, Agraharam and Porter taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Agraharam further taught wherein the data is music data (page 1, paragraph 15), and the selection is particular music data (page 2, paragraph 17; page 3, paragraphs 34 and 35).

13. As per claim 3, Agraharam and Porter taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Agraharam further taught comprising transmission means for receiving text data transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server and transmitting the text data to the least one other information processing apparatus accessing the shared server and belonging to the same group (page 3, paragraph 30).

14. As per claim 4, Agraharam taught the invention substantially as claimed for a service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses accessing a single shared server on a network, comprising:

a storage controlling step of controlling a group (page 3, paragraphs 36 and 37); and content (page 1, paragraph 15);
a reception step of receiving a group request to include a corresponding one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of the plurality of groups (e.g. participation list) (page 3, paragraphs 27 and 36), the group request selecting a respective one of the plurality of groups (page 3, paragraph 29), and for receiving a content request (e.g. specifies the multimedia document) transmitting from any of the information processing apparatuses belonging to one of the plurality of groups, the content request including a selection of available content (page 3, paragraphs 28 and 34), the group

request and the content request received by the single shared server (BWS Center) (page 3, paragraphs 27 and 28); an acquisition step of acquiring data coordinated with the content request (page 1, paragraph 16) to the single shared server (page 2, paragraph 19; page 3, paragraph 28); and a communication step of transmitting the data acquired by said acquisition step simultaneously from the single shared server (page 1, paragraph 16) to all of those of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the single shared server and belonging to a same group (e.g. session audience) (page 2, paragraph 19; page 3, paragraphs 27 and 29).

15. Agraham did not specifically teach storage controlling a plurality of groups and a list of available content. Porter taught a shared file management system for storage controlling a plurality of groups (col. 8, lines 21-31; col. 10, lines 33-48) and a list of available content (col. 11, lines 4-9, 26-32; col. 11, line 66-col. 12, line 6). Furthermore, Porter taught a selection from a list of available content (col. 9, line 62-col. 10, line 9).

16. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Agraham and Porter because Porter's teaching of storage controlling a plurality groups would increase the utilization of the shared server to provide services to multiple groups.

(Note that Agraharam's system must store and control a plurality of groups in order to provide services to multiple session audiences.)

17. As per claim 8, Agraharam taught the invention substantially as claimed for an information processing apparatus for accessing a service providing apparatus functioning as a single shared server, which provides services on a network, together with other information processing apparatuses, comprising:

an inputting step of inputting access information for accessing a single shared server of the service providing apparatus (BWS Center 100, fig. 1) to select a group (page 3, paragraph 37);

a display controlling step of controlling display of available contents transmitted from the single shared server of the service providing apparatus (page 2, paragraphs 20 and 21);

a requesting step of selecting content from the available content and requesting the single shared server of the service providing apparatus for transmission of the selected content to said information processing apparatus belonging to one of the plurality of groups and all the other information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server belonging to the same group (page 3, paragraphs 27, 29, 34 and 36);

reception step of receiving data transmitted from the single shared server of the service providing apparatus (e.g. BWS Center) to all of the information processing apparatuses belonging the same group (e.g. session audiences) (page 2, paragraphs 19 and 21); and reproduction step of reproducing the data (page 2, paragraph 19).

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18. Agraham did not specifically teach a plurality of groups and a list of available content. Porter taught a shared file management system for servicing a plurality of groups (col. 8, lines 21-31; col. 10, lines 33-48) and a list of available content (col. 11, lines 4-9, 26-32; col. 11, line 66-col. 12, line 6). Furthermore, Porter taught controlling display of a list of available content (col. 9, line 62-col. 10, line 9).

19. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Agraham and Porter because Porter's teaching of a plurality groups would increase the utilization of the shared server to provide services to multiple groups.

(Note that Agraham's system must store a plurality of groups in order to provide services to multiple session audiences.)

20. As per claim 13, Agraham and Porter taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 12 above. Agraham further taught wherein the data is music data (page 1, paragraph 15), and the selection is particular music data (page 2, paragraph 18).

21. As per claim 14, Agraham and Porter taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 12 above. Agraham further taught a transmission unit configured to receive text data transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server and configured to transmit the text data to the at least one other information processing apparatus accessing the shared server and belonging to the same group (page 3, paragraph 30).

22. Claims 6,7, 9-11 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agraharam and Porter in view of Erdelyi, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0056879 (hereinafter Erdelyi).

23. As per claims 6, 9 and 15, Agraharam taught the invention substantially as claimed for accessing a service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server, which provides services on a network, together with other information processing apparatuses, comprising:

inputting means for inputting access information for accessing the service providing apparatus to a group (page 3, paragraph 37);
display control means for controlling display of available contents transmitted from the service providing apparatus (page 2, paragraphs 20 and 21);
requesting means for selecting content from among the available content and requesting the service providing apparatus for transmission of the selected content to said information processing apparatus belonging to one of the plurality of groups and the other information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server belonging to the same group (page 3, paragraphs 27, 29, 34 and 36);
reception means for receiving data transmitted from the service providing apparatus (e.g. BWS Center) to all of the information processing apparatuses belonging the same group (e.g. session audiences) (page 2, paragraphs 19 and 21); and
reproduction means for reproducing the data (page 2, paragraph 19).

24. Agraham did not specifically teach a plurality of groups and a list of available content. Porter taught a shared file management system for servicing a plurality of groups (col. 8, lines 21-31; col. 10, lines 33-48) and a list of available content (col. 11, lines 4-9, 26-32; col. 11, line 66-col. 12, line 6). Furthermore, Porter taught controlling display of a list of available content (col. 9, line 62-col. 10, line 9).

25. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Agraham and Porter because Porter's teaching of a plurality groups would increase the utilization of the shared server to provide services to multiple groups.

(Note that Agraham's system must store a plurality of groups in order to provide services to multiple session audiences.)

26. Agraham and Porter did not teach specifically teach media player. Erdelyi taught inputting access information into a single window of a media player configured to access a service (page 3, paragraphs 54-57); controlling display of available content in the single window of the media player (fig. 4A; page 4, paragraph 59); selecting content from the available content in the single window of the media player (page 4, paragraph 59) and transmission of the selected content by activating a command in the single window of the media player (page 4, paragraphs 67; page 5, paragraph 80).

27. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teaching of Agraharam, Porter, and Erdelyi because Erdelyi's teaching of a single window of a media player would enhance and make it easier for users in Agraharam's and Porter's systems to input and to select information/contents utilizing the graphical interface.

28. As per claim 7, Agraharam, Porter and Erdelyi taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 6 above. Porter further taught wherein the list of available content is a table listing available music data (col. 7, lines 32-37) (i.e., the list of files may be audio data) provided from the service providing apparatus (col. 11, lines 4-9, 26-32; col. 11, line 66-col. 12, line 6), and the data is particular music data corresponding to the selected content (col. 9, line 62-col. 10, line 9; col. 11, lines 4-9; col. 11, line 66-col. 12, line 6).

29. As per claims 10, 11 and 17, Agraharam, Porter and Erdelyi taught the invention substantially as claimed in claims 6, 9 and 15 above. Erdelyi further taught activating a command by activating a play button in the single window of the media player (page 5, paragraphs 80 and 81).

30. As per claim 16, Agraharam, Porter and Erdelyi taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 15 above. Porter further taught wherein the list of available content is a table listing available music data provided from the server providing apparatus, and the data is

particular music data corresponding to the selected content (col. 11, lines 4-9; col. 11, line 66-col. 12, line 6; col. 7, lines 32-37).

31. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17, filed 11/17/06, have been fully considered but are not deemed to be persuasive.

32. In the remark applicant argued that

(1) Agraham does not teach communication means as claimed in claim 1.

33. In response to point (1), applicant argued Agraham that does not teach communication means as claimed in claim 1. Specifically, page 10, line 23 to page 11, line 2 of the remarks filed on 11/17/2006, applicant states: Agraham describes that *only* terminals on this participation list receive the content, *not all of the terminals currently accessing a shared server.*" Examiner disagree. Agraham teaches participation list indicates which client terminals are session audience (i.e., belonging to the group) (page 3, paragraph 27). Only client terminals included in the participation list can access the broadcast session (access to the shared server to receive the broadcast) (page 3, paragraph 29). As cited in page 3, lines 9-12 of the Office Action mailed on 9/20/2006, Agraham teaches controller 300 (i.e., part of shared server 100, fig. 1) broadcast data to all of client terminal of the session audience (transmit data to all of the information processing apparatuses) (page 2, paragraph 19). This means data are transmitted to all client terminals that are accessing to the broadcast session (i.e., currently accessing the shared server

BWS that broadcasts the session) (page 3, paragraph 29) and that are in the session audience indicated in the participation list (i.e., belonging to a same group)(page 3, paragraph 27). Accordingly, Agraharam teaches the communication means as claimed in claim 1.

CONCLUSION

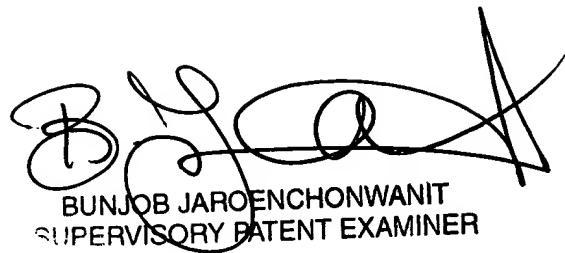
34. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Phillip et al, US 7,136,903

35. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip C Lee whose telephone number is (571)272-3967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM TO 5:30 PM Monday to Thursday and every other Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions.

on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

P.L.



BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER